

Minutes of the Bromyard Downs Common Association

General Meeting

Wednesday 27th July 2016

7:30 - 9:30 Falcon Hotel Bromyard

Committee Attendees

James Hawkins (Chair)
Clive Brazier (Treasurer)
Nicki Howard

Lauren Smith (Secretary)
David Boddington
Jan Densham

Ben Hiley (Vice Chair)
Jo Stoddart
Nigel Shaw

Public Attendees

Alan Grantham

Judy Hart

1. Welcome & Apologies for absence;

George Thompson
Hannah Welsh

Gill Churchill
Karen Rock

Graham Cooper
David Grant

2. Action points ongoing from previous meetings

2.1 **Quarry Lease Update** – On Main Agenda

2.2 **Additional funding** for the Quarry, from local councils – Ben has sent a letter to the local councils detailing what we proposing to do with the quarry and asking for help with the general running costs - Action closed

2.3 **Drains Survey** – James has completed the survey and requested quotes for the work needed from John Poyner and Don Powell– Action Closed

2.4 **Additional Poles** on Downs have been registered and the BDCA will receive the wayleaves due – Action Closed

2.5 **Management Plan focus Group** meeting will be arranged in September – Action closed

2.6 **Dog mess spraying** went well feedback received from 5 walkers - 4 positive one was not – James is meeting with the unhappy walker to discuss – Action closed

2.7 **Biannual meeting** of interested groups will be arranged in the autumn – On going

2.8 **Malvern College Volunteers** – One session has already been completed Graham taking forward – Action closed

2.9 **Downs Open Day** – Was not as well attended due to bad weather but walks went well – James extended his thanks to the volunteers – Action closed

2.10 Purchase of additional equipment – as follows

- **Storm Shelter and litter pickers**
- **Parking notice envelopes**
- **High-viz volunteer jackets**

All are being stored in the lock up – Action closed

2.11 **Finalise leaflets** – still awaiting colour drafts from Francis – Ongoing

- 2.12 **Gala volunteers** – We were not given much space but this was understandable – Dr Boddington volunteered but didn't consider there was justification for helping towards the cost of the stand– Action closed
- 2.13 Summer Hay cut – Equine rescue will take delivery of bales if cut but there are still areas which need to be allocated for cutting
- 2.14 Letter sent to Clifton Hunt and reply received acknowledging our concerns – Action closed

Minutes of the last meeting approved – one correction Ray Pullen did not send his apologies as he was unaware of the meeting

3. **Finance Update**

Current Balance = £10,683.68

4. **Parish Council Update**

The Clerk has resigned and a temporary clerk from Hereford has been presiding over the meeting – An advert has been placed to fill the position

Fly tipping is an issue in the area and people are being asked to report and sightings to the council or via the website. Officers will be inspecting and will try to convict when there is enough evidence

The abandoned car on the school carpark has been noted

5. **Update on Downs Management**

- 5.1 In principle the tractor and flair funding has been approved by HLF with reservations as to its continued upkeep and the fact it is taking 50% of the budget
Comments were made that we should ensure the tractor purchased will be strong enough for the working on the Downs especially banks and that any users should be well trained as parts of the Downs are difficult to access and work is dangerous for anyone not familiar with the terrain
- Assured – that instructors will train potential drivers on the job and only experienced drivers will tackle the steeper areas. Also as the areas will be cut twice this will make the cutting easier
 - Noted that we could offer to keep the power lines clear on behalf of Western Power for a cost instead of employing contractors
- 5.2 A Dog training session on the 10th August has been arranged with 8 Dogs and owners already signed up
- 5.3 Common people project is going well with filming commencing with the Youth Theatre
- 5.4 Commons Network It was agreed by the steering group to move forward with the facilitation fund as a source of ongoing funds to support a county wide network – Hannah will update at the next meeting
- 5.5 Dog Mess Campaign – noted that Hereford Market have issued a note re the increase in CO vis Worms in lamb carcasses – research has found that this is picked

up by flocks grazing on common land and on areas where there is public access-
This results in the lamb carcasses being condemned as unfit for consumption

- 5.6 Management plan Focus Group meeting to be arranged in September by Lauren, volunteer attendees –James, Ben, Hannah, Gill Churchill, Jan Densham, Nicki Howard, Duncan Douglas, Jo Stoddart and Judy Hart
- 5.7 Thanks extended to Martin Pullen for cutting the Rides and fire breaks - Quote was for approx. 16 hours at £37 per hour - £592
- 5.8 Schools have completed the Moths art project and the resulting moths can be seen from the Downs carpark – Moths have been well received
- 5.9 Training – One further chainsaw course is being scheduled should anyone be interested – please let Hannah know
Dr Boddington has id some trees which need clearing and will let Jane, Pond Project manager know which ones
General consensus that we need the opportunity for volunteers to attend a chemical spraying course. We know that some people have already been trained but no one directly from the active volunteer group and it's thought this training should be available – James to check who was actually funded and put the proposal to the steering group
- 5.10 3 local volunteers have been trained in general phase one vegetation training
- 5.11 Discussion on renewing and erecting bridges to make access points easier The main crossing point where a bridge would be useful is on a blind bend which is not the ideal place for anyone especially children running across a bridge and on into the road
General consensus to not go ahead as any new bridge erected would result in the BDCA responsibility to maintain and if anyone slipped or had an accident we could be liable.
- 5.12 Drains Survey we are awaiting quotes from John Poyner and Don Powell for the work needed
Pete Stoddart is still awaiting John Poyner to carry out the work scheduled for Muddy Lane. He will contact to see when it will be completed
- 5.13 Quarry Lease – £1 per year on a 3 year rolling lease. This is a commercial lease as it's not part of the Downs – The general idea is to use the quarry as a local resource for local people, Bromyard groups such as the Guides and Brownies,
There will be an ongoing insurance cost and some initial funding needed to ensure the area is well fenced and safe to use
Letters are being sent to local councils Bringsty and Bromyard Town to see if they have funds available to help
Alan Grantham noted that the access to the quarry was maintained by the residents and only they have unhindered access. This was duly noted and residents were assured that we would not allow vehicles to use the tracks and any access would be

by foot. The whole venture would be low key we would not in any way wish to inconvenience the local residents
A written contract will incorporate all the issues and set out rules of use to any locals or groups wishing to use the facility

Proposed to take out a one year initial lease

Unanimous agreement to take on the quarry initially for one year

Ben and James to take forward

Thanks were extended to Ben for all his hard work

5.14 Notice boards are being purchased by Brockhampton Group Parish Council – Ben has offered to help put them up when available

5.15 Planning for the Bromyard Hobby Horse Race and Picnic on the 18th September is underway
Responsibilities for areas are listed on the attached list, thanks to everyone who has taken over a role
A further meeting of the management group will be arranged by Lauren for the beginning of September to update and ensure all aspects have been covered

6 Public Member Questions

Alan Grantham thanked the committee for addressing his concerns over the proposals for use of the quarry

7. Any Other Business

7.1 There has been a difference of opinion over the original site and removal of the pond in Golf Lane. The pond created in the wrong place has established well and a question has been raised by David Boddington that it should now be left. However, the site was created in the wrong area and the spoil dumped is causing a hazard on what was previously an established track. The decision to move the pond should stand - minutes noted that this issue was raised

7.2 Parked Vehicle and material is still causing a hazard to access to the Downs from Muddy Lane – James to have another word with the owner

Date of next ordinary meeting

Tuesday 20th September 2016 – Falcon Hotel Bromyard 7:30 – 9:30

Meeting Close

Lauren Smith

BDCA Secretary

01885 488223

<mailto:laurenc@smithaam.plus.com>

BDCA Meeting Schedule for the coming Year	
20th September 2016	<i>All meetings currently scheduled to meet at the Falcon Hotel Bromyard From at 7:30 to 9:30</i>
16th November 2016	
17th January 2017	
15th March 2017	
AGM – Wednesday 10th May	
28th June 2017	